

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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R 171005Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7145

USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 16513

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJ: ACTION IN BINH DINH AND KONTUM

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

HEREWITHREPEAT OF AMCONSUL NHA TRANG MESSAGE 831 QUOTE

O R 150540Z SEP 73

FM AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

TO RUMJIR/AMEMBASSY SAIGON NIACTIMMEDIATE 640

INFO RHMSMVA/USDAO SAIGON

RUMMRGA/USSAG NKP RTAFB

TB

C O N F I D E N T I A L NHA TRANG 0831

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: ACTION IN BINH DINH AND KONTUM

1. AT 0620H ON SEPTEMBER 14, NVA GUNNERS AND INFANTRY INITIATED COORDINATED SHELLING AND GROUND ATTACKS ON FOUR ARVN IMPLACEMENTS AROUND TAM QUAN DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS IN NORTHERN BINH DINH. THREE OF THE ATTACKS CONSISTED OF THE ROCKETING AND
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SHELLING OF THE 47TH REGT HQS, THE 40TH REGT HQS, AND THE HQS

OF THE 2ND BN 40TH REGT. THESE THREE ATTACKS BY FIRE WERE APPARENTLY DIVERSIONARY; THE MAJOR ENEMY OBJECTIVE WAS THE SECURITY OUTPOST MANNED BY THE 1ST CO, 2ND BN, 40TH REGT, LOCATED 3 KM SOUTHWEST OF TAM QUAN TOWN. CONCURRENTLY WITH THE OTHER THREE ATTACKS, THE ENEMY FIRED OVER 200 MIXED 61 AND 82MM MORTAR ROUNDS INTO THE COMPANY POSITION IN PREPARATION FOR A GROUND ASSAULT. AFTER NEARLY FOUR HOURS OF SUSTAINED SHELLING, HOWEVER, ARVN WAS ABLE TO REINFORCE THE BELEAGUERED COMPANY WITH THE 22ND RECON COMPANY, WHICH HAD SPENT THE PRECEDING NIGHT ON AN OPERATION TO THE WEST. WITH THEIR COMBINED FORCES, THE TWO ARVN COMPANIES EASILY REPULSED THE ENEMY GROUND ATTACK, WHICH CAME LATER ON IN THE MORNING, AND WERE ABLE TO MOUNT A SUCCESSFUL COUNTERATTACK (SUPPORTED BY BOTH TACAIR AND ARTILLERY). THE OUTCOME OF THE ATTACK, WHICH LASTED UNTIL 1630H, WAS: NVA: 76 KIA, ONE 57MM RECOILLESS RIFLE, THREE MEDIUM MACHINE GUNS, THREE AK'S, TWO M-79 GRENADE LAUNCHERS, ONE B-40 ROCKET AND 84 GRENADES CAPTURED; ARVN: 7 KIA AND 22 WIA.

2. THE RESULTS OF THE THREE DIVERSIONARY SHELLING ATTACKS PLUS ANOTHER NVA GROUND ATTACK ON A TWO-COMPANY OUTPOST OF THE 47TH REGT, LOCATED 6 KM NORTHWEST OF TAM QUAN TOWN WERE: NVA- 14 KIA, ONE AK AND B-40 ROCKETS CAPTURED; ARVN: THREE WIA. THE TOTAL OF 90 NVA KILLED IN ACTION REPORTED IN TAM QUAN FOR SEPT 14 COMPRISED THE LARGEST ENEMY CASUALTY AGGREGATE ACCOUNTED FOR IN A SINGLE DAY OF FIGHTING SO FAR THIS YEAR IN BINH DINH.

3. IN KONTUM, MEANWHILE, HEAVY FIGHTING WAS EXPERIENCED BY RANGER ELEMENTS LOCATED ABOUT 15 KM SOUTHWEST OF THE CITY. UNITS OF THE 95TH B NVA REGT ATTACKED THE RANGERS ON SEPT 14 AND THE ACTION RESULTED IN 27 ENEMY KIA AND 4 ARVN KIA PLUS 22 WIA. IN DISCUSSION YESTERDAY WITH THE CONSUL GENERAL AND DEPUTY PRINCIPAL OFFICER, GENERAL TOAN INDICATED THAT HE HOPED SHORTLY TO ENGAGE THE 95B NVA REGT AND DRIVE THEM WESTWARD ACROSS THE YA KRONG BOLAH. HE ALSO ANTICIPATED THAT THE 42ND REGT WOULD HAVE ONE MORE HEAVY ENGAGEMENT BEFORE THEY SUCCEEDED IN DRIVING THEIR ENEMY OPPONENTS WEST OF THE POKO. HE SAID THE 42ND WAS NOW ONW KILOMETER TO THE EAST OF THE POKO AND THEY EXPECTED CONACT WITH THE
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ENEMY AT ANY TIME. THE CONSULATE GENERAL DOES NOT AS YET HAVE FULL INFORMATION ON THE RANGER VS 95TH B BATTLE BUT IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE FINAL STAGES OF THE CAMPAIGN TO DRIVE THE ENEMY BACK WHERE HE CAME FROM MAY HAVE BEGUN.
SPEAR UNQUOTE
APPLING

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